

Application Serial No. 10/726,245
Response dated September 1, 2006
Reply to Office Action dated June 2, 2006

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A method of programming a schedule of an HVAC controller having a user interface, the schedule having a number of HVAC schedule parameters, the method comprising the steps of:

providing asking two or more interview questions [[to]] of a user via the user interface, each of the two or more interview questions eliciting a numerical time and/or a numerical temperature as a response;

accepting one or more user responses from the user via the user interface, in a non-graphical form, to the two or more interview questions; and

creating and/or modifying one or more of the HVAC schedule parameters based on the user responses provided by the user interface.

2. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing asking step comprises providing asking one or more interview questions that elicit an affirmative or negative user response.

3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing asking step comprises providing asking one or more interview questions that elicit a “YES” or a “NO” user response.

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4. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing asking step comprises providing asking one or more interview questions that are natural language questions.

5. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing asking step comprises providing asking one or more interview questions that are phrases.

6. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing asking step comprises providing asking one or more interview questions that are phrases having three or more words.

7. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing asking step comprises providing asking one or more interview questions that are audible.

8. (original) The method according to claim 1, wherein the accepting step comprises accepting one or more user aural responses.

9. (canceled).

10. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the schedule further includes one or more lawn sprinkler schedule parameters, wherein the creating and/or modifying step comprises modifying one or more lawn sprinkler schedule parameters.

11. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the schedule further includes one or more security schedule parameters, wherein the creating and/or modifying step comprises modifying one or more security system schedule parameters.

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12. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the schedule further includes one or more lighting schedule parameters, wherein the creating and/or modifying step comprises modifying one or more lighting schedule parameters.

13. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing asking step comprises providing asking one or more interview questions related to, which weekdays have a same schedule, when a first person wakes up, when a last person goes to sleep, when a last person leaves during the day, when a first person arrives home, what a comfortable temperature is when heat is on, what a comfortable temperature is when air conditioning is on, what a comfortable sleeping temperature is in summer, or what a comfortable sleeping temperature is in winter.

14. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing asking step comprises providing asking one or more interview questions that provide a plurality of predetermined responses for selection by the user.

15. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the providing asking step comprises providing asking one or more interview questions that further display a previous answer that was accepted by the user interface.

16. (currently amended) An HVAC controller comprising:
a programmable schedule, the schedule having a number of HVAC schedule parameters;
and

a user interface, adapted and configured to provide ask two or more interview questions [[to]] of a user, and to accept a numerical value for each of at least two of the two or more interview questions as user responses, said at least two of the two or more interview questions including at least one interview question relating to a comfort temperature level of the user, and at least one different question relating to a schedule of the user;

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wherein, one or more of the schedule parameters are modified based on the user responses.

17. (original) The controller according to claim 16, wherein the user interface comprises a touchscreen.

18. (original) The controller according to claim 16, wherein the user interface provides one or more interview questions that elicit a “YES” or a “NO” user response.

19. (currently amended) The controller according to claim 16, wherein the user interface provides asks one or more interview questions that are phrases having two or more words.

20. (canceled).

21. (currently amended) The controller according to claim 16, wherein the one or more schedule parameters further include one or more [[are]] security system schedule parameters.

22. (currently amended) The controller according to claim 16, wherein the user interface provides asks one or more interview questions that provide a plurality of predetermined responses for selection by the user.

23. (currently amended) An HVAC controller comprising:
schedule means for providing a programmable schedule, the programmable schedule having a number of HVAC schedule parameters; and

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user interface means adapted and configured to ~~provide ask~~ two or more interview questions [[to]] of a user, and to accept one or more user responses to each of the two or more interview questions from the user, said two or more interview questions including at least one interview question eliciting a discrete numerical value from the user relating to the user's comfort level and/or schedule;

wherein, the controller modifies one or more of the schedule parameters based on the user responses provided by the user interface.

24. (currently amended) A method of programming a schedule of an HVAC controller having a user interface, the schedule having a number of HVAC schedule parameters, the method comprising the steps of:

providing asking one or more interview questions [[to]] of a user via the user interface, said one or more interview questions including at least one interview question relating to the user's comfort level and/or schedule;

accepting one or more discrete numerical values as user responses to the one or more interview questions from the user via the user interface;

translating the one or more discrete numerical values to form a translated response including one or more setpoints; and

modifying one or more of the schedule parameters based on the translated response.

25. (currently amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein the providing asking step comprises providing asking one or more interview questions that elicit a "YES" or a "NO" user response.

26. (currently amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein the providing asking step comprises providing asking one or more interview questions that are natural language questions.

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27. (currently amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein the providing asking step comprises providing asking one or more interview questions that are phrases having three or more words.

28. (canceled).

29. (currently amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein the schedule further includes one or more lawn sprinkler schedule parameters, wherein the modifying step comprises modifying one or more lawn sprinkler schedule parameters.

30. (currently amended) The method according to claim 24, wherein the providing asking step comprises providing asking one or more interview questions that provide a plurality of predetermined responses for selection by the user.

31. (currently amended) An HVAC controller comprising:
a programmable schedule, the schedule having a number of HVAC schedule parameters;
a user interface, adapted and configured to provide ask one or more interview questions [[to]] of a user, and to accept one or more discrete numerical values as user responses to each of at least one of the one or more interview questions from the user, said one or more interview questions including at least one interview question relating to the user's comfort level and/or schedule; and

a translator, adapted and configured to translate the one or more discrete numerical values of the user responses to form a translated response;

wherein, the number of schedule parameters are modified based on the translated response.

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32. (currently amended) The controller according to claim 31, wherein the user interface provides asks one or more interview questions that elicit a “YES” or a “NO” user response.

33. (currently amended) The controller according to claim 31, wherein the user interface provides asks one or more interview questions that are phrases having two or more words.

34. (canceled).

35. (currently amended) The controller according to claim 31, wherein the schedule further includes one or more ~~of the schedule parameters are~~ security system schedule parameters.

36. (currently amended) The controller according to claim 31, wherein the user interface provides asks one or more interview questions that provide a plurality of predetermined responses for selection by the user.

37. (currently amended) A method of programming a schedule of an HVAC controller having a user interface, the schedule having a number of HVAC schedule parameters, the method comprising the steps of:

sequentially providing posing a number of queries to a user via the user interface, at least one of said queries relating to the user’s comfort and at least another one of the queries related to a user’s schedule; and

accepting user responses to at least selected queries, the sequence of queries adapted to collect sufficient information from the user responses to generate at least a major portion of the schedule parameters.

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38. (currently amended) The method according to claim 37, wherein the sequentially providing posing step comprises sequentially providing posing a number of queries that elicit a “YES” or a “NO” user response.

39. (currently amended) The method according to claim 37, wherein the sequentially providing posing step comprises sequentially providing posing a number of queries that are context sensitive to the user response.

40. (previously presented) The method according to claim 39, wherein the accepting step comprises determining the number and/or sequence of queries based on the user responses to the context sensitive queries.

41. (original) The method according to claim 37, further comprising the step of generating HVAC schedule parameters using the user responses accepted during the accepting step.

42. (currently amended) The method according to claim 37, wherein the schedule parameters further include one or more of the schedule parameters are lawn sprinkler schedule parameters.

43. (currently amended) The method according to claim 37, wherein the sequentially providing posing a number of queries step includes sequentially providing posing a number of queries related to, which weekdays will have a same schedule, when a first person wakes up, when a last person goes to sleep, when a last person leaves during the day, when a first person arrives home, what a comfortable temperature is when heat is on, what a comfortable temperature is when air conditioning is on, what a comfortable sleeping temperature is in summer, or what a comfortable sleeping temperature is in winter.

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44. (currently amended) The method according to claim 37, wherein the sequentially providing posing step comprises sequentially providing posing one or more queries that provide a plurality of predetermined responses for selection by the user.